

Message Text

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TO USUN NY IMMEDIATE 1125
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8768
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EO 11652 NA
SUBJ: PRESIDENT PEREZ PORTION OF JOINT PRESS
CONFERENCE MIRAFLORES PALACE AUG 12, 1977

FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ PORTION OF PRESS CONFERENCE
HELD JOINTLY WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG.
PRESIDENT PEREZ: GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS OF THE US, I WOULD
LIKE TO EXTEND TO YOU THE MOST HEARTY WELCOME TO VENEZUELA.
I AM VERY SATISFIED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG, WHO IS SO WELL LIKED
IN LATIN AMERICA, HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY SUCH AN IMPORTANT
GROUP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA OF THE US. I WILL BE VERY
HAPPY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE NO
INDISCREET QUESTIONS; LEAVE THE INDISCRETION TO ME.

Q. MR PRESIDENT, WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE TODAY A MAP OF VENEZUELA
WAS GIVEN TO US THAT COVERED A GREAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TERRITORY
OF GUYANA. IF THIS IS AN OFFICIAL MAP, COULD YOU EXPLAIN IT,
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MR PRESIDENT?

A. YES, THAT MAP OF VENEZUELA HAS A SEPARATE PART WHICH IS CALLED
THE ZONE OF RECLAMATION THAT VENEZUELA HAS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES
WHEN GUYANA WAS A COLONY OF GREAT BRITAIN. THERE ARE
FREINDLY DISCUSSIONS AMONG GUYANA, VENEZUELA AND GREAT
BRITAIN ABOUT THE SITUATION WHICH BRITISH IMPERIALISM CREATED

IN THE PAST, AND THIS MAP WAS MADE UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.
IT IS NOT WITHIN VENEZUELAN TERRITORY BUT IT IS A ZONE OF RECLAMATION

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IT IS WRITTEN ON THE MAP-- BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND GUYANA.
THIS IS A DIFFICULT AND BOTHERSOME SUBJECT BUT IT IS BASED ON
THE FACT THAT OUR CONTRY HAS IRREFUTABLE DOCUMENTS
CONCERNING THE VIOLATION OF VENEZUELAN TERRITORY BY GREAT
BRITAIN; BUT NOW WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT WE ARE NO LONGER
DEALING WITH A COLONIAL POWER, BUT WITH A NEW NATION AND
THIS IS HOW WE ARE DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM WITH THE REPUBLIC
OF GUYANA.

Q. MR PRESIDENT, JOHN GOSHKO OF THE WASHINGTON POST. FOR MY
COLLEAGUES I WILL ASK MY QUESTION IN ENGLISH, IF YOU WILL ALLOW
ME. ALSO MENTIONING GUYANA, WE WERE THERE TWO DAYS AGO AND WE
WERE TOLD BY THE VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF THE GOVT THAT GUYANA
IS HAVING GREAT ECONOMIC DIFFCULTIES AT PRESENT BROUGHT ON TO
A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT BY THE TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN THE COST
OF IMPORTED OIL. NOW, THIS IS A MATTER THAT ONE HEARS DISCUSSED
MUCH IN QUITE A FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT FORTUNATE
LIKE VENEZUELA AND HAVE LARGE INTERNAL OIL RESERVES. THERE HAS
BEEN MUCH TALK IN THE PAST ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OPEC
WORKING OUT SOME KIND OF PRICING SYSTEM THAT WOULD PROVIDE
OIL AT CHEAPER PRICES TO THOSE UNDERDEVELOPED, OR DEVELOPING
NATIONS THAT DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY THE ESCALATING
PRICE OF OIL. COULD YOU TELL US OF VENEZUELA'S POSITION ON
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THIS AND IF THERE IS ANY MOVEMENT WITHIN OPEC TOWARDS THIS END?

A. OF COURSE, I CAN EXPLAIN TO YOU VARIOUS PLANS OF COOPERATION
THT WE HAVE WITH INDIVIDUAL OPEC COUNTRIES, WITH THE COUNTRIES IN
OUR AREA THAT DO NOT HAVE PETROLEUM, AND THOSE MECHANISMS
THAT OPEC HAS AS AN ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER
DEVELOPING NATIONS. OPEC HAS CREATED A SPECIAL FUND WHICH WAS
STARTED WITH \$900 MILLION AND WHICH HAS NOW DOUBLED AND HAS AS
A SECONDARY OBJECTIVE CONCESSIONAL LOANS TO THE POOREST COUNTRIES
OF THE THIRD WORLD. AT THE INITIATIVE OF OPEC THE INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR AGRICURLURAL DEVELOPMENT WAS CREATED UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF THE FAO. OPEC HAS CONTRIBUTED APPROX \$700 MILLION
TO THIS FUND, WHEREAS THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS HAVE ONLY
CONTRIBUTED \$300 MILLION OF THE TOTAL \$1 BILLION WITH HWICH IT
WAS STARTED. THE PURPOSE OF THESE FUNDS IS TO HELP
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE PETROLEUM.
FURTHERMORE, IT IS BASICALLY OPEC MONEY WHICH FACILITATES
THE IMF SUBSIDY OF PETROLEUM PURCHASES BY DEVELOPING NATIONS.
EACH ONE OF THE OPEC MEMBER COUNTRIES, ON ITS OWN, GIVES AID TO
THE COUNTRIES IN ITS PARTICULAR AREA. THIS IS IN SPIE OF THE
FACT THAT ALL OF US IN OPEC ARE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; WE ARE NOT
RICH COUNTRIES EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE PETROLEUM WE OFFER MORE

COOPERATION TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAN DO THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS.

VENEZUELA HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA BY WHICH VENEZUELA IS FINANCING ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF THE COST OF PETROLEUM TO EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES ON A FIVE-YEAR BASIS, AT THE END OF WHICH PERIOD IT IS CONVERTED TO A LONG-TERM LOAN IF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WANT TO APPLY IT TO THEIR PLANS OF DEVELOPMENT. VENEZUELA ALSO HAS PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES HERE IN THE CARIBBEAN, AMONG THEM GUYANA AND JAMAICA, AND WITH SOME COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTHERN CONE SUCH AS PERU.

VENEZUELA IS INVESTING 3 PERCENT OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAMS, WHILE THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS ARE ONLY INVESTING .5PERCENT OF THEIR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCTS. WE HAVE REJECTED THE IDEA OF PRICE DIFFERENTIALS FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BECAUSE THIS COULD LEAD TO MANY DIFFICULTIES FOR PETROLEUM IN THE WORLD MARKET. WE THEREFORE PREFER MULTI-LATERAL AID AND BI-LATERAL PLANS OF COOPERATIONS. MAINLY WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF A MULTI-LATERAL SYSTEM OF COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTRIES OF OUR REGION WHICH DO NOT HAVE PETROLEUM. SIMILARLY, WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, WE HAVE PLACED FUNDS IN TRUST IN THE IDB, IN THE BANCO DEL CARIBE AND IN THE ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT PETROLEUM IS NOT THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS; RATHER IT IS ONE OF CONSTANTLY RISING PRICES THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS WHICH

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THEY BUY FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE GREAT DIFFICULTY OF OUR COUNTRIES-- EVEN THOSE OF US WHO HAVE PETROLEUM. SINCE 1974 THE PRICE OF MANUFACTURED GOODS HAS RISEN MORE THAN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM. TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CASE OF STEEL. WHILE THE PRICE OF IRON ORE HAS DECREASED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAVE RAISED THE PRICE OF STEEL TWICE IN RECENT MONTHS. THUS, PETROLEUM IS NOT THE VILLAIN. I LET YOU DECIDE FOR YOURSELVES WHO IT IS.

Q. MR PRESIDENT, MR YOUNG'S DIPLOMATIC STYLE, HIS CANDOR, HIS FRANKNESS HAS BEEN GREETED WITH ENTHUSIASM AS WELL AS WITH FEAR AND SURPRISE IN THE US. WHAT IS THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GOVTS AND THE PEOPLE IN LATIN AMERICA IN THIS RESPECT?

A. WE IN LATIN AMERICA ARE DEVELOPING A NEW DIPLOMACY WHICH DEPARTS FROM FORMAL DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE TO EXPRESS OUR PROBLEMS, SO MR YOUNG'S LANGUAGE AND STYLE HITS US AS JUST RIGHT BECAUSE WE ARE DOING THE SAME. WE MIGHT ALSO SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN THE PRECURSORS OF THIS NEW DIPLOMACY. OFTEN IT IS NOT PLEASANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH, TOLD WITH SUCH HONESTY, BUT THERE IS NO LONGER UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY OTHER WAY IF WE SINCERELY WANT TO SOLVE THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACED BY THE WORLD-- ABOVE ALL NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS.

Q. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYS IS THAT THE CUBANS ARE NOT SUPERMEN AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT FEAR THEM. NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY -- ARE YOU AFRAID OF THEM?

A. I THINK IF WE HAVE ANYONE TO FEAR WE SHOULD LOOK A LITTLE FARTHER TO THE NORTH. BUT SERIOUSLY, I THINK THAT FORTUNATELY THERE HAS BEEN A DETENTE LIKE THAT FORSTERED BY THE US IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST BLOC AND THAT THE CUBAN PROBLEM-- EVEN THOUGH IT HASN'T BEEN SOLVED IN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE -- THE SITUATION IS NOW QUITE DIFFERENT. AT THIS VERY MOMENT AN ADMIRABLE US SENATOR, MR CHURCH, IS IN HAVANA CONVERSING WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF THAT REPUBLIC. SO REALLY, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, IF THERE IS THE WILL TO FIND AVENUES OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. OF COURSE THERE ARE PROFOUND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR

COUNTRIES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. BUT THIS NEED, IT
BE AN OBSTACLE TO MAINTAINING RELATIONS AND ACHIEVING THE ACCEPTANCE
OF THE NORMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM BY
WHICH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE GOVERNED.

Q. MR PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS SAID THAT DEMOCRACY
IS ON TRAIL ON THIS CONTINENT AND THAT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE IT
NEEDS ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND HE HAS OFFERED THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE US TO ACHIEVE THIS STABILITY. IN YOUR OPINION, IS US
ASSISTANCE WELCOME IN THE REA AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS?

A. WE FULLY AGREE WITH MR YOUNG THAT ECONOMIC INSTABILITY IS THE
PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY, NOT ONLY IN THE COUNTRIES
OF LA, BUT IN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD. MY TALKS
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE WHITE HOUSE DEALT SPECIFICALLY
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WITH THIS SUBJECT. I ALSO STATED THAT THE FIRST HUMAN RIGHT
IS THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND THAT THE RIGHT TO LIFE IS NOT
RESPECTED UNLESS THE WELL BEING OF ALL PEOPLE IS PERMITTED THRU
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAIR AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS.
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. THE AID OF THE
US AND OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IS NOT ONLY WELCOME, BUT
NEEDED-- BUT WITHOUT HIDDEN INTENTIONS. WE DON'T WANT CHARITY,
NOR DO WE WANT YOUR PITY, BUT RATHER WE WANT TO BE TREATED
AS EQUALS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SINCERE AND HONEST DEVELOPMENT
OF GLOBAL INTER-DEPENDENCE, THAT IS TO SAY THAT THE
TECHNOLOGY THE MANUFACTURED GOODS AND THE LABOR OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED
NATIONS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME VALUE AS THE RAW MATERIALS AND THE
LABOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPING AREAS.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE US ORGANIZED THE MARSHALL PLAN FOR POST-
WAR EUROPE, THEY DID NOT IMPOSE CONDITIONS NOR DID THEY INDICATE
THE USES TO WHICH THE MONEY WAS TO BE PUT, BUT RATHER EACH ONE
OF THE COUNTRIES IN EUROPE DECIDED FOR THEMSELVES, ACCORDING TO
THEIR OWN INTERESTS, THE USES TO WHICH THE MARSHALL PLAN
CREDITS SHOULD BE PUT. THIS IS THE COOPERATION THAT WE WISH
YOU TO GIVE TO OUR COUNTRIES.

AS REGARDS TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, WE DO NOT REPUDIATE
THEM, BUT NEITHER DO WE ACCEPT THE PROCEDURES THEY ONCE
USED BY WHICH THEY PROPOSED TO CONTROL OUR ECONOMY AND IN
CONTROLLING OUR ECONOMIES THEY WERE SIMPLY REDUCING THE SO-
VEREIGNTY OF OUR COUNTRIES. WE WANT INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL TO
FLOW INTO OUR COUNTRIES IN THE AREAS IN WHICH WE NEED IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THEY BRING US TECHNOLOGY THAT WE NEED OR
WHEN THEY HELP US IN PRODUCING FOR EXPORT.

WE REITERATE THE RIGHT TO BE SOVEREIGN OVER OUR NATURAL
RESOURCES AND THAT BASIC INDUSTRIES MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF OUR

COUNTRIES AND NOT IN THE HANDS OF FOREIGN ENTERPRISES. HOWEVER,
WE ACCEPT MIXED VENTURES OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC CAPITAL AND FOREIGN
CAPITAL, OR STATE CAPITAL AND PRIVATE FOREIGN FIRMS, WITH THE
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PROVISION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE STOCK IS ALWAYS WITHIN OUR
COUNTRY. I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. IN HONDURA,
WHERE THERE ARE EXTRAORDINARY RESOURCES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PAPER
PULP, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES
OFFERED WAS THAT A FOREIGN FIRM EXPLOIT THE HONDURAN WEALTH.
VENEZUELA HAS OFFERED TO HONDURAS FOR THIS INDUSTRY, WHICH WILL
HAVE A COST OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, FIRST CREDIT
AGAINST VENEZUELAN FUNDS ON TRUST IN THE IDB; SECOND A LOAN FROM
THE VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT FUND, AND THIRD, USE OF THE MONEY
LOANED THEM TO FINANCE PETROLEUM PURCHASES, IN SUCH A WAY THAT
HONDURAS CAN FORM THIS ENTERPRISE, OWNING MORE THAN FIFTY
PERCENT OF THE CAPITAL. FURTHERMORE, VENEZUELA AND OTHER
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ENTERED AS PARTNERS WITH A MINORITY
OF THE CAPITAL TO CREATE A LA MULTI-NATIONAL ENTERPRISE. AND
CANADA ALSO ENTERED, AS A TECHNOLOGICAL PARTNER -- ALSO A
MINORITY CONTRIBUTOR. THIS COULD NOT BE DONE RIGHT NOW WITH
CAPITAL FROM THE TRANS-NATIONAL NOR WITH CAPITAL FROM THE
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

Q. GREAT ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN BY VENEZUELA TO THE CARIBBEAN
ISLANDS; YOU ARE SETTING UP EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES EVERYWHERE
AND SENDING SHIPS AND EXHIBITS, AND GENERALLY DOING THINGS
THAT THE GRINGOS USED TO DO IN THE PAST. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
COMPLAINING IN THESE COUNTRIES, SAYING THAT THEY ARE JUST
EXCHANGING ONE IMPERIALIST POWER FOR ANOTHER. ALTHOUGH VENEZUELA
HAS ALWAYS STATED THAT THEY ARE ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC, HOW DO YOU
THINK, SIR, YOU CAN REMOVE THEIR DOUBTS?

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A. OUR GREAT TEACHERS HAVE BEEN THE GRINGOS-- WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. OUR COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN MUST SHOW TO THE CARIBBEANS THAT WE HAVE NO HIDDEN INTENTIONS AND THIS IS WHY WE ARE DEDICATED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A PLAN OF COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN, WHICH WOULD BE ESTABLISHED THRU THEIR OWN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CARIBBEAN BANK AND OTHER MECHANISMS WHICH THE NEW COUNTRIES HAVE CREATED FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO COOPERATE BELATERALLY WITH THEM AND WE DO IT WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS. OUR EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD THE FULL INTEGRATION OF THE CARIBBEAN AREA INTO LATIN AMERICAN.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, EDITH LEDERER, AP. FIRST, A VERY QUICK FOLLOW-UP TO YOUR QUESTION ON CUBA. THIS MORNING IN PORT OF SPAIN, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT HE WAS STILL VERY CONCERNED BY THE SIGNIFICANT ABSENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA. YOU ARE A GREAT DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS; IS THIS SOMETHING THAT YOU ALSO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT? MY SECOND QUESTION IS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS SPOKEN ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN BASIN AS A NEW AND POTENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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TIALLY VERY SIGNIFICANT AREA BECAUSE IT INCLUDES MOST OF THE MAJOR DEMOCRACIES IN THE LA AREA. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS GROUPING, WHICH WAS PARTIALLY SEEN IN BOGOTA, COULD BECOME A VOTING FORCE IN THE UN?

A. FIRST OF ALL MY PEOPLE AND MY GOVT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS NOT ONLY IN ANY LA COUNTRY, BUT IN ANY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD. THEREFORE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN RESTRICT OUR POSITION TO ONE COUNTRY ONLY; WE FIGHT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND PARTICULARLY IN LA. THIS IS WHY IN THE UN AND IN THE OAS I HAVE STATED THAT I BELIEVE WE NEED A SUPRA-NATIONAL SUPERVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE A UN AUTHORITY SUPERVISING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE OAS SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE AUTHORITY AND POWER. I REPEAT, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE ABSENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANY COUNTRY OF THE LA REGION. NOW, AS FAR AS THE BOGOTA MEETING IS CONCERNED, WE DID NOT CREATE

IN BOGOTA ANY KIND OF GROUP OR BLOC AS SUCH IT IS IMPORTANT THAT
PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE IN LA WANT TO ACT AS A COMMUNITY, WITHOUT
A UNILATERAL SHOW OF POWER BY ANY ONE COUNTRY IN THE REGION.
THE MEETING IN BOGOTA WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF A PREVIOUS
MEETING HELD ON THE ISLAND OF CONTADORA OF PANAMA. COLOMBIA,
COSTA RICA PANAMA AND VENEZUELA PARTICIPATED IN THIS MEETING
WHICH HAD A VERY SPECIFIC PURPOSE. YOU NOW THERE IS A CLAUSE
IN THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY BY WHICH THE US COMMITTED ITSELF
TO GIVE FREE PASSAGE TO COLOMBIAN SHIPS THRU THE CANAL IT
SEEMED TO ME THAT AS PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA THIS CREATED A
PROBLEM AS FAR AS THE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF LA WERE CONCERNED.
WE THEN HELD A MEETING AT WHICH, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PANAMA
CALLED UPON ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT OVER THE CANAL AND IN THE
STATEMENT WHICH WAS SIGNED PANAMA OFFERED TO COLOMBIA AND COSTA
RICA, ITS NEIGHBORS FREE PASSAGE FOR THEIR SHIPS WHEN THE
CANAL IS TURNED OVER TO PANAMA. NOW THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST
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RELEVANT EXAMPLES OF LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION.
SO WHEN WE MET IN BOGOTA, WE WANTED TO INCLUDE MORE COUNTRIES
FROM THE CARIBBEAN, MEXICO AND JAMAICA. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT
WE FORMED A BLOC AND REALLY WE FELT THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE
COUNTRIES OF LA AT THOSE MEETINGS.

THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING IN BOGOTA, WHICH
MARKED A MOMENT OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE FOR LA, LIES IN THE
FACT THAT WE CAME TOGETHER TO SHOW SOLIDARITY OF THE
LA COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT TO A PROBLEM AFFECTING ONE
REPUBLIC OF THE AREA -- PANAMA -- AND CONSEQUENTLY AFFECTS
THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. AND HERE I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE
OPPORTUNITY, AS I SEIT HERE BEFORE THIS DISTINGUISHED RE-
PRESENTATION OF THE US MEDIA, TO SAY THAT I WISH TO CONGRATULATE
PRESIDENT CARTER, VERY SINCERELY, FOR HIS GREAT SENSE OF
JUSTICE AND FOR THE WAY HE HAS BROUGHT HIS GREAT SENSE OF
ETHICS TO HIS GREAT COUNTRY BY FACILITATING THESE NEGOTIATIONS,
AS IT HAS DONE, BY WHICH PANAMA MAY RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY OVER
AN IMPORTANT PART OF ITS TERRITORY. I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS
BASIC ELEMENT OF US POLICY IS GOING TO CHANGE - FOR THE
BETTER - RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN AND LATIN AMERICA.
IN THE TELEGRAM IN WHICH I CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN
HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE US, I WROTE THAT THE PANAMA
CANAL PROBLEM WOULD PUT TO THE TEST THE SINCERITY OF THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS LA. AND TODAY I MUST SAY THAT I FEEL
A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION AND HAPPINESS WITH WHAT HAS
HAPPENED AND THAT I PLACE GREAT TRUST IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND LA.

WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE US WILL LIVE UP TO ITS
HEMISPHERIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT WE WILL WITNESS THE APPROVAL
OF THE TREATY WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED, BECAUSE THIS WILL BRING

ABOUT A CLOSER LINK BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, AS REPRESENTED IN THE CONGRESSES OF LA AND THE CONGRESS OF US.

Q. MY NAME IS KATHLEEN TELTSH; I'M FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES
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AND MR PRESIDENT I WANT TOMAKE SURE I UNDERSTOOD YOU....
YOU'VE GIVEN US A PICTURE OF ALL THE MANY THINGS VENEZUELA HAS
DONE TO HELP COUNTRIESIN THE REGION. NOW, WE'V E BEEN
TRAVELING WITH MR YOUNG, HWO HAS BEEN PUTTING FORWARD THE
IDEA THAT SOME OF THE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE MORE PROSPEREITY-
VENEZUELA BEING ONE- MIGHT BE WILLING TO JOIN WITH CANDADA,
WITH US, WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN HELPING THE POORER COUNTRIES
OF THE REGON. NOW LISTENING TO YOU I WONDER IS THIS A NEW THING,
OR IS THIS SOMETHING THAT YOU QUIETLY GONE ABOUT DEVELOPING
ON YOU OWN?

A. EXACTLY.

REPORTER: THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT PEREZ: I AM VERY GRATEFUL BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT
IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT WE LA'S WANT IT IS THAT THE US KNOW
US MORE AND KNOW US BETTER. LET ME ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNTIY
TO SAY THAT I WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ATTENTION FROM THE
COMMUNICATIONS MDIA OF THE US DURING MY VSIT TO WASHINGTON
NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA AND CHICAGO. SO YOU SEE, WE DON'T
ONLY CRITICIZE -- WE ALSO HAVE GOOD THIHGS TO SAY, ALTHOUGH WE
KNOW WE MUST ALSO CORRECT MANY THINGS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A
MORE FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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